

S.N. 09/681,374

RD-27,727

REMARKS

The Office action dated October 18, 2004 and the cited references have been carefully considered.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4-25, and 39-47 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 7-25, and 39-47 have been canceled.

In the previous Office action dated May 20, 2004, claim 2 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the response to the previous Office action, claim 2 was rewritten in independent form, but some of the limitations of the base claim 1 were inadvertently left out. Claim 2 is now rewritten to include all of the limitations of base claim 1. Therefore, claim 2 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 4-6 depend upon claim 2 either directly or indirectly. Therefore, claims 4-6 are also in condition for allowance. Early allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are patentable and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested. Allowance of claims at an early date is solicited. The Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' attorney in order to advance this application toward early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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December 13, 2004